May Meeting in Review

Date—May 26, 2014
Meeting called to order 7:35 pm
Speaker - Ron Kiefert
Topic– Crotons for a South Florida Landscape
Speaker - Lamar Sapp
Topic - Fertilizers for South Florida, How its Made, Special Blends

Ron’s presentation covered techniques for container and landscape culture for the Crotons. Crotons have returned to popularity and are going through a Renaissance. The program closed with an array of different cultivar photos.

Lamar gave an intensive introspective on the use of fertilizer in our gardens and for commercial use. Lamar is recently retired after years of keeping the multi-million dollar golf courses throughout the South East looking their best with his expertise.

Meeting ended: 9:15 pm

A perfectly grown Medinilla in the shade house of Dr. Jeff Block.

Next Meeting, June 23 @ 7:30 pm

A panel comprised of Dr. Jeff Block, Ellis Brown, Phil Iloo and Marie Nock, who will speak on The Amazing Medinilla

Not a lot is known about Medinillas. Very little is published and online information is difficult to find. And yet this group of plants is growing in popularity. Some gardeners are successful with them and others see cherished plants decline and die. So we have put together a panel of individuals who have collected, grown, bloomed and propagated many varieties of Medinillas for several years. They will share what they have learned through trial and error that has led to their successful practices.

Marie of Ree Gardens will provide an overview of the genus Medinilla and general growing practices. Ellis of Redland Nursery will describe his growing practices and vegetative propagation. Phil of Stelmar Gardens will discuss practices to induce blooming and landscaping with Medinillas. Jeff of Block Botanical Gardens has been growing Medinilla ‘Gregori Hambali’ from seed and will describe the process he uses. There will be some Medinillas for sale after the presentation.

Refreshments will be served
Hope to see you there!

Annual Show and Sale

The Show was a bit of a challenge this year. The display we had used for many years had been retired—so an alternative was needed to show off our members fabulous specimen plants.

To construct a display similar to our old one would have been prohibitively expensive plus the issue of storage had to be considered. The collective weight of our members displayed plants exceeds several thousand pounds. To ensure the safety of our members and guests visiting our show, it was decided to use construction scaffolding as our frame. Then we dressed it up with 800 square feet of white lattice panel.

Giving the circumstances we were confronted with, this was the best solution at the time. I will be throwing the display issue on the floor at the next meeting. Its your Society and your input is important.

Volunteers
I cannot express my gratitude to all our volunteers enough. Without your contributions, there simply could be no show. Thank you very much for your dedication.

Special, Special Thanks!!!!!
Construction of our display was quite the task. The twin tower design was nearly 11 feet tall and many hours on ladders were necessary. Without the strenuous assistance from Mike O’Dea, Tom Moore and Shelia O’Dea, our display would not have had its grandeur.

Special Thanks Continued …

(Show and Sale continued on page 2)
The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
Officers for 2014

President
Ron Kiefert  (305) 445-7228
Vice President
Marie Nock  (305) 232-2257
Secretary
Craig Morell  (305) 630-2711
Treasurer
Bob Benaim  (305) 793-9755
Membership
Sherrin Smith  (305) 213-2598
Hospitality
Martha Bogaards  (305) 661-2305
Emalyl Israel  (305) 235-0886
Special Sales
Marie Nock  (305) 232-2257
Raffle Table
Skye Palmer  (305) 595-9291
Argeo Hernandez  (305) 633-9099
Webmaster
Bob Benaim  (305) 793-9755

Board of Directors will consist of the above officers and chairs; and the following individuals.

Steve Forman  (305) 662-2368
Debbie Lamb  (305) 251-8675
Marnie Valent  (305) 233-5929
Reggie Whitehead  (305) 613-5944

Trinity Churchside Garden
Stop by to support Penny at the Annex Restaurant
DAVID MCLEAN (In Memoriam)
14 S.W. 11 Street  (954) 768-0423
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315 Just west of South Andrews Avenue
The first Saturday of each month is a special day!

SHERRIN A. SMITH (Miami Native)
PLANT, PET, AND HOUSE SITTING; Personal Assistance
305 213-2598 Phone  305 668-4622 Fax
E-mail: sas56chevy@aol.com

Mounting Plaques
Made of 1” x 3”
Pressure Treated Lumber
12” x 12” - $ 7.00
15” x 15” - $ 10.00
18” x 18” - $ 13.00
21” x 21” - $ 16.00
24” x 24” - $ 20.00
Contact – Bob Benaim, 305-793-9755 or staghornrescue@gmail.com

(Show and Sale continued from page 1)

Putting up the display is only half the job. Mike & Shelia O’Dea were at it again joined with Bob & Valerie Holt. Their stamina was amazing and stayed until the display was fully dismantled. Job well done! My sincere appreciation to all of you cannot be expressed enough.

Judges and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
Emalyl Israel and Martha Bogaards did not disappoint with the wonderful spread of food and beverage we enjoyed. Thanks to all who donated their special homemade dishes and desserts. As usual, I ate too much.

Judges
Thanks to our Judges, Martha Kent, Craig Morell and Lester Kallus. Due to the height of our display—they spent some time on ladders judging some of the higher displayed specimens. Thanks to our Clerk’s Mike and Shelia O’Dea. Keeping track of all the entries and awards was quite the task.

With much Sadness:
It is my unfortunate task to inform the members who were not aware of the passing of David McLean. A Lifetime Member of our Society whose contributions to the South Florida horticultural scene are simply to numerous to list. At Dave’s last Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society meeting guest speaker presentation, I had arrived several hours as did Dave. We spent a wonderful few hours just talking about all kinds of plants. It was 25 years since I had the first opportunity to hear him speak. He still captivated me with his wealth of knowledge across a wide variety of plant families.

South Florida has lost a unique irreplaceable plantsman in David McLean. I am surely going to miss him.

Ron
President, TFEPS
Welcome to our New Members

George Sparkman *(Life Time)*
PO Box 1161
Fallbrook, CA 92088– 1161
Ph: 760-468-0554
E-mail: cycadpalms@aol.com

Richard M. & Helen Zwick *(Life Time)*
264 Navajo Street
Miami Springs, FL 33166
Ph: 305-885-0580
Cell: 786-291-6771
E-mail: hvgutierrez@gmail.com

John & Delores Harshaw
22727 S.W. 127th Avenue
Miami, FL 33170
Ph: 786-718-7749
E-mail: johnharshawsr@yahoo.com

Robert van Haren
Schooneroom 3
Curacao
Ph:
E-mail: arti.rohava@yahoo.com

Raffle Table for May

June 23 .............................................................................................................................. Weeds & Things
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Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society
P.O. Box 902094
Homestead, FL 33090-2094

___ Individual Member $15.       ___ Household Membership $17.
___ Life Membership $125.       ___ Life Household Membership $150.
(Yearly dues are for calendar year - January - December)
This is for a New Membership: _____ or for Renewals: _____

Member's Name: _______________________________________________________
Name of additional member: _____________________________________________
Street Address: _______________________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: _______ Zip + 4: _________ + ______
E-mail: ____________________________________________________________
Phone: ________________________________ Amount enclosed: $_____________
About 20% of the earth's land surface is in Africa. The origin of the name “Africa” is rather obscure due to its antiquity. “Africa” may be derived from the Phoenician word “Afar” meaning, “dust”. With Africa's remarkably rich natural resources it is not surprising that it's floral riches are equally vast. The beautiful and rare *Costus spectabile*, was only introduced into horticulture within the last decade. The equally rare and beautiful African genus, *Siphonochilus*, deserves space in our gardens. These rare gingers go dormant November through April avoiding any need for Winter protection. I trust the following pictures will explain my passion for these wonderful gingers.

*Out of Africa*

*By John Banta*

_Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc._

6880 S. W. 75 Terrace

_South Miami, FL 33143_

Next Meeting, The Amazing Medinilla. Presented by the panel of Dr. Jeff Block, Ellis Brown, Phil Iloo and Marie Nock, Monday June 23 at 7:30 pm, Monday, June 23, 7:30 p.m

_The Rains are here, don’t forget to fertilize!_